

one. Throughout her career, her piercing optimism and resilience cut through obstacles of discrimination and discouragement, clearing a path to where she now stands as one of our country's wealthiest self-made African-American women.

Hughes, who became a mother at the age of 16, has recalled taking her son to classes and, later on in her career, having him sleep in a sleeping bag in her office when she had to work late. Growing up among a family of entrepreneurs, as Hughes did, she was no stranger to hard work, business jargon and long hours. Her father was the first African-American to earn an accounting degree from Creighton University. Her mother played trombone.

In 1971, Hughes came to the District of Columbia to work at Howard University's School of Communications, and she went on to become a General Sales Manager for the University's radio station, WHUR-FM. On her arrival in the District, Hughes wrote to her mother, "My eyes were tired at the end of the day, staring at the greatness of Black people doing so many things."

In the late 1970s, Hughes started her own radio station, once known as Radio One, now Urban One. During her career she endured racism and sexism, but these were no match for her electric optimism. After seven years, the radio station became profitable and continued to grow. In 1999, at the recommendation of her son, who had received his MBA at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, Cathy Hughes became the first African-American woman to chair a publicly held corporation, following the sale of more than seven million shares of common stock to the public.

She has received numerous awards, including being selected for the National Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2019, the Woman of the Year Award by 100 Black Men of America in 2018, the Ida B. Wells Living Legacy Award in 2011 and the Essence Women Shaping the World Award in 2008. She was inducted into the Radio Hall of Fame in 2010, and the Cathy Hughes School of Communications at Howard University was named for her in 2016.

I relish this opportunity to recognize and honor the work of Cathy Hughes. Her resilience, optimism and determination are true guiding lights through these difficult times. She has mentored countless women and her entrepreneurial energy has touched many, both in D.C. and across the nation.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Cathy Hughes on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of Urban One.

**NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION COMMISSIONED OFFICER CORPS AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2020**

SPEECH OF

**HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN**

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2020*

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 2981, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Amendments Act of 2020. I was also proud to cosponsor the House companion to this bill—H.R. 2406—introduced by my colleagues, Representatives ED CASE of Hawaii, DON YOUNG of Alaska, and JARED HUFFMAN of California.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps (NOAA Corps) operates the agency's highly specialized international fleet of research and survey ships and aircraft. They conduct oceanographic and atmospheric research and include the Hurricane Hunter aviators, who provide the National Weather Service with the necessary data for their storm forecasts and warnings.

In Puerto Rico, we know how important this work is. For instance, before Hurricane Maria even departed our waters in September 2017, the NOAA Corps-led *NOAA Ship Thomas Jefferson* became the first federal vessel on scene in relief efforts. Over the next 20 days, that ship and crew worked uninterrupted, around-the-clock shifts throughout Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, eventually clearing eighteen individual port facilities in thirteen areas. Seven of them were in Puerto Rico alone.

That is why I support passage of S. 2981, which would give NOAA Corps the authorities it needs to continue as an effective service for our nation. The bill would provide its officers employment rights in line with other uniformed services, authorize education loan repayment programs for NOAA Corps officers and tuition support for prospective officers, and gives NOAA updated authorities to manage the size and composition of the Corps, among other provisions.

I look forward to continuing supporting the men and women of the NOAA Corps.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF RONNIE S. WILLIAMS**

**HON. GEORGE HOLDING**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to take pause and reflect on the life of Ronnie S. Williams.

Madam Speaker, Ronnie Williams was especially proud of his service to his country. He graduated from Garner High School in 1966, attended Wake Community College then served in U.S. Army. He was deployed to Vietnam from 1969 to 1970. Williams was a member of American Legion Post 232 and Garner VFW Post 10225.

In addition to his military service, Williams was a former first responder. He was a volunteer both in the Garner Volunteer Fire Department and in Garner EMS, serving as chief of the latter from 1980 to 1983.

Madam Speaker, Ronnie Williams served on the Board of Aldermen for Garner, North Carolina for 20 years before being elected Mayor of Garner, and serving in that role between 2005 until December of last year.

Under Ronnie's nearly three decades of public service, Garner, North Carolina prospered now includes over 30,000 residents outside of Raleigh. He also assumed roles of regional and statewide leadership during his tenure

as mayor. He served as chair of the Wake County Mayors Association from 2007 to 2009 and was selected to be an at-large member of the N.C. League of Municipalities' Board of Directors.

Sadly, former Garner Mayor Ronnie S. Williams passed away on Saturday, September 12, 2020 at the age of 72.

His legacy as a devoted and dedicated public servant will be missed by all of those who knew him.

**IN HONOR OF LAURA DAVIS**

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Laura Davis upon her retirement from the San Bruno City Council after three years of service. Serving on the council of a small city is never easy, but doing so during a global pandemic not seen in a century is almost unimaginable. Yet, Laura and her colleagues used and created tools and mechanisms that made San Bruno residents as safe and supported as possible. Laura's hard work and dedication are a testament to her commitment to her community.

While on the council, Laura served on the Utilities Committee, the Traffic Safety & Parking Commission, the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee, the Airport Land Use Committee, the Bay Area Water Supply & Conservation Agency and the Peninsula Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance. These complex issues require a lot of knowledge, research and consideration and Laura always took the time to do her homework. In her day job, Laura is the Customer Relations Manager at California Water Service company where she has worked for 20 years. She brought extensive expertise on water issues to the council.

Laura also served on the Recreation and Aquatics Center Advisory Committee which is tasked with supporting the construction of a new Recreation and Aquatics Center in San Bruno City Park. This project will be a tangible symbol of the community spirit of San Bruno residents. After the fatal and devastating explosion of a Pacific Gas & Electric Company gas pipeline in 2010, the community voted on how to best spend a restitution settlement with PG&E of \$70 million. It was agreed that all residents of San Bruno should benefit from the settlement and a new pool was voted the highest priority. It is that spirit of resilience and solidarity that defines San Bruno's character.

Laura also isn't a newcomer to public service. Prior to the council, she served on the San Bruno Crime Prevention Committee and on the Parks & Recreation Commission. She served on the committee that planned the spectacular Centennial celebration of San Bruno in 2014, three years before being elected to the council. An avid outdoors and sports enthusiast, she has coached numerous softball, basketball and soccer teams in San Bruno. She founded "Friends Helping Friends" through St. Robert's Parish and raised \$100,000 to help those in need of medical treatment with their expenses. After Laura survived her own battle with cancer, she served as a committee member of a Relay for Life fundraiser and she organized a community